



**EPILEPSY  
FOUNDATION  
CONNECTICUT**

*Not another moment lost to seizures™*

**Written Testimony of  
Linda Wallace, Executive Director  
Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut, Inc.  
February 11, 2010  
Appropriations Committee**

386 Main Street • Middletown, CT 06457

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, Senator Prague, Rep. Hamm and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Linda Wallace and I am the Executive Director of the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut. I am here tonight on behalf of my daughter who has epilepsy, the Foundation's Board of Directors and the 60,000 people in Connecticut with epilepsy, to urge you to restore the Foundation's funding of \$55,000. Last year, this critical line item fell victim to the Governor's budget rescission. I'm here before you tonight to most respectfully ask that this small line item in the budget be restored.

As you know, epilepsy is a chronic condition that affects approximately 60,000 people in our state. It is not just a condition of childhood but can afflict individuals of all ages and all income levels. If the individual is a child, there is an increased risk compared to other children of compromised social and intellectual development. Identifying learning difficulties and addressing emotional and social problems soon after a diagnosis is critical to future development. An adult who is diagnosed with epilepsy for the first time can experience significant lifestyle limitations, such as losing the ability to drive, loss of income and strained family relationships.

The funding we receive from the state is used to improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy by providing them with reliable information, ongoing support, and identifying appropriate services and professionals who can assist them. It is also used to conduct community education and create awareness among teachers, nurses, first responders, and other groups who interact with people who have epilepsy on a daily basis. Last year we responded to hundreds of requests for information, conducted over 50 educational programs for teachers, nurses, and allied health personals, sponsored support groups throughout the state, and offered a summer camp experience for 35 children and teens with epilepsy. We believe all of those services are vital to improving the quality of life for people with epilepsy.

In these difficult economic times, the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut understands the need to exercise fiscal restraint. We have worked hard to develop a diversified funding base with revenue from individuals, corporations, federations and community foundations. However, we rely on the small percentage of our overall funding we receive from the state to provide much needed services to people with epilepsy. We are greatly concerned that during these tough economic times, our efforts will not be enough and fear that the needs of our clients will rapidly outpace the financial resources of our organization.

I appreciate this opportunity to testify on behalf of the thousands of people with epilepsy who live in our state, and hope that you will recognize the need to restore the \$55,000 rescission for epilepsy services.

I would be glad to answer any questions.